

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-40. (cancelled)

41. <sup>1</sup> (currently amended) A composition comprising:

(a) polymer particles having

(1) a one millimeter penetration temperature of less than ~~about~~ 75 °C as determined by thermal mechanical analysis; or(2) an unconfined yield strength of greater than ~~about~~ 15 pounds per square foot (73 kilograms per square meter); or

(3) both (1) and (2);

(b) an effective amount of anti-blocking agent mechanically adhered to the polymer particles;

wherein the polymer particles comprise a substantially random interpolymer comprising:(1) polymer units derived from:(i) at least one vinyl or vinylidene aromatic monomer; or(ii) a combination of at least one vinyl or vinylidene aromatic monomer and at least one sterically hindered aliphatic or cycloaliphatic vinyl or vinylidene monomer; and(2) polymer units derived from at least one(i) ethylene; or(ii) aliphatic alpha-olefin monomer having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms.

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

<sup>2</sup>  
~~44.~~ (currently amended) The composition of Claim ~~42~~ <sup>1</sup>~~41~~ wherein the interpolymers comprises:

(a) polymer units derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers and polymer units derived from ethylene;

(b) polymer units derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers and polymer units derived from ethylene and one or more C<sub>3</sub> or C<sub>20</sub> alpha-olefins;

or

(c) polymer units derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers and polymer units derived from a combination of ethylene and norbornene.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~45.~~ (currently amended) The composition of Claim ~~42~~ <sup>1</sup>~~41~~ wherein the vinyl aromatic monomer is styrene.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~46.~~ (currently amended) The composition of Claim ~~42~~ <sup>1</sup>~~41~~ wherein the interpolymers is selected from the group consisting of polymer units derived from:

- (a) ethylene and styrene;
- (b) ethylene and propylene and styrene;
- (c) ethylene and butene and styrene;
- (d) ethylene and pentene and styrene;
- (e) ethylene and hexene and styrene; and
- (f) ethylene and octene and styrene.

<sup>5</sup>  
~~47.~~ (currently amended) The composition of Claim ~~42~~ <sup>1</sup>~~41~~ wherein the interpolymers comprises from 50 to 97 mole percent of polymer units derived from ethylene based on the total moles of monomer.

<sup>6</sup>  
~~48.~~ (currently amended) The composition of Claim ~~42~~ <sup>1</sup>~~41~~ wherein the interpolymers comprises from 50 to 97 mole percent of polymer units derived from ethylene based on the total moles of monomer, and polymer units derived from styrene.

49-51. (cancelled)

*Cancelled* 52. (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim 49 which further comprises polymer units derived from vinyl acetates.

*7*  
53. (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the polymer is a styrenic block copolymer.

*8*  
54. (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim ~~53~~<sup>7</sup> wherein the styrenic block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-butadiene copolymer and styrene-butadiene-styrene copolymer.

*Cancelled* 55. (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the polymer is a polyvinyl chloride polymer.

*9*  
56. (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the polymer comprises polymer units derived propylene.

*10*  
57. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.02 to 3 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.

*11*  
58. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~57~~<sup>10</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.08 to 1.5 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.

*12*  
59. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~58~~<sup>11</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.1 to 0.5 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.

*13*  
60. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~59~~<sup>12</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent comprises from 0.15 to 0.3 weight percent anti-blocking agent based on the total composition.

*16*  
61. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of talc, mica, calcium carbonate, finely divided silica, fumed silica, organic acids, metal organic esters and powdered polymers.

*17*  
62. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent is talc.

*18*  
63. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent is calcium stearate.

*14*  
64. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~59~~<sup>12</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent is talc.

*15*  
65. (Original) The composition of Claim ~~60~~<sup>13</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent is talc.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~66.~~ (Original) The composition of Claim ~~41~~<sup>1</sup> wherein the anti-blocking agent is mechanically adhered to the surface of at least about 50 percent of the polymer particles.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~67.~~ (Original) The composition of Claim ~~66~~<sup>19</sup> wherein at least about 10 percent of the diameter of an individual anti-blocking agent is embedded into an individual polymer particle.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~68.~~ (Original) The composition of Claim ~~66~~<sup>19</sup> wherein up to about 50 percent of the diameter of an individual anti-blocking agent is embedded into an individual polymer particle.

<sup>22</sup>  
~~69.~~ (Original) The composition of Claim 41 wherein the unconfined yield strength of the composition is at least about 20 percent greater than the strength of the same composition without an anti-blocking agent.

<sup>23</sup>  
~~70.~~ (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim ~~42~~<sup>41</sup> which further comprises up to 50 percent (by weight) of at least one other thermoplastic polymer.

<sup>24</sup>  
~~71.~~ (~~Withdrawn~~) The composition of Claim ~~70~~<sup>23</sup> wherein the at least one other thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of homopolymers and copolymers of polystyrene, polyethylene and polypropylene.

<sup>25</sup>  
~~72.~~ (Original) A composition comprising:

(a) a substantially random interpolmer comprised of polymer units derived from ethylene and polymer units derived from styrene;

(b) from 0.15 to 0.3 weight percent of anti-blocking agent selected from the group consisting of talc and calcium stearate wherein the anti-blocking agent is mechanically adhered to the interpolmer particles.

73-83. (Cancelled)